

CLAIMS

1. A portable information terminal comprising:

an image data storage unit (4) storing image data;

5 a character recognition unit (2) effecting character recognition processing on the image data stored in said image data storage unit to provide character information as a result of said character recognition processing;

a type designating unit (40, 31, 32, 102, 12) designating a type of the character information provided as the result of said character recognition processing;

10 a character information storage unit (4) storing the character information;

a control unit (2) causing said character recognition unit to effect the character recognition processing on first image data, and causing said character information storage unit to store first character information being a result of the character recognition processing effected on said first image data in a fashion corresponding to the type designated to said type designating unit for said first character information; and

15 a continuous recognition instruction unit (19) operated after the character recognition processing effected on said first image data for effecting character recognition processing on second image data for obtaining character information to be related to said first character information, wherein

20 said control unit causes said character information storage unit to store second character information being a result of the character recognition processing effected on said second image data in a fashion corresponding to the type designated to said type designating unit for said second character information and related to said first character information.

25 2. The portable information terminal according claim 1, wherein

said character recognition unit provides said character information after effecting correction according to the type designated to said type designating unit on the result of

the character recognition processing.

3. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, wherein
said continuous recognition instruction unit is operated to cause said character
5 recognition unit to effect the character recognition processing on said second image data
for obtaining the character information to be related to said first character information
continuously after the character recognition processing effected on said first image data.

4. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, further
10 comprising:

a character information storage instruction unit (12) to be operated for
instructing storage of the character information in said character information storage
unit, wherein

15 said control unit stores collectively said first character information and said
second character information in said character information storage unit in response to
the operation of said character information storage instruction unit.

5. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, wherein
said character information storage unit can store phone book data, and
20 said first character information and said second character information form said
phone book data.

6. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, wherein
said character information storage unit can store address book data, and
25 said first character information and said second character information form said
address book data.

7. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, wherein

said first character information and said second character information are equal in type of the character information designated to said type designation unit in connection with said character information.

5 8. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, wherein
 said first character information and said second character information are
different from each other in type of the character information designated to said type
designation unit in connection with said character information.

10 9. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, wherein
 said character recognition unit effects the character recognition processing on
third image data for obtaining third character information to be related to said first and
second character information in response to the operation of said continuous recognition
instruction unit after the character recognition is effected on said first and second image
data, and

at least two of said first character information, said second character information
and said third character information are equal in type of the character information
designated to said type designation unit in connection with said character information.

20 10. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, wherein
 said character recognition unit effects the character recognition processing on
third image data for obtaining third character information to be related to said first and
second character information in response to the operation of said continuous recognition
instruction unit after the character recognition is effected on said first and second image
data, and

at least two of said first character information, said second character information
and said third character information are different in type of the character information
designated to said type designation unit in connection with said character information.

11. The portable information terminal according claim 1 or 2, wherein
said portable information terminal is a cellular phone.

5 12. A method of controlling a portable information terminal comprising the
steps of:

accepting designation of a type of character information provided as a result of
character recognition processing effected on first image data;

effecting the character recognition processing on said first image data;

10 storing first character information being a result of the character recognition
processing effected on said first image data in a fashion corresponding to the type
designated for said first character information;

 effecting the character recognition processing on second image data after the
character recognition processing effected on said first image data; and

15 storing second character information being a result of the character recognition
processing effected on said second image data in a fashion corresponding to the type
designated for said second character information and related to said first character
information.